

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were examined; claims 7-18 were withdrawn after the Election of claims 1-6 filed on October 29, 2003.

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of September 9, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,128,051 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim") in view of U.S. Patent 6,287,899 to Park et al. (hereinafter "Park"). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Park and further in view of Applicant's Related Art (hereinafter "ARA").

The rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-6 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a first gate shorting bar on the substrate, the first gate shorting bar having a plurality of first connecting contact holes; a second gate shorting bar spaced apart from and parallel to the first gate shorting bar, the second gate shorting bar having a plurality second connecting contact holes;...a plurality of first pad connectors, each connecting an odd numbered gate pad to the first gate shorting bar via the corresponding gate pad contact hole and via a corresponding first connecting contact hole; and a plurality of second pad connectors, each connecting an even numbered gate pad to the second gate shorting bar through the corresponding gate pad contact hole and via a corresponding second connecting contact hole." (claim 1). None of the cited references including the ARA, Kim, or Park, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this claimed feature.

The Examiner acknowledges that Kim does not disclose "a first gate shorting bar on the substrate, the first gate shorting bar having a plurality of first connecting contact holes; [and] a plurality of first pad connectors, each connecting an odd numbered gate pad to the first gate shorting bar via the corresponding gate pad contact hole and via a corresponding first connecting contact hole" (Office Action, page 3, para. 2). The Examiner alleges that Park teaches this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Park teaches using only one gate shorting bar. Specifically, Park describes "[g]ate pads 24 and data pads 64 respectively connected to the gate lines 22 and the data lines 62, and a gate shorting bar 4 and a data shorting bar 5 are formed in the peripheral area. The gate shorting bar 4

and the data shorting bar 5 connect all of the gate lines 22 and all of the data lines 62, respectively” (Park, column 9, lines 39-45). Therefore, Park does not disclose, teach or suggest “a first gate shorting bar on the substrate, the first gate shorting bar having a plurality of first connecting contact holes; [and] a plurality of first pad connectors, each connecting an odd numbered gate pad to the first gate shorting bar via the corresponding gate pad contact hole and via a corresponding first connecting contact hole”, nor would the combination of Park with Kim motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to use a second gate shorting bar.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are allowable over the cited references.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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